CLAIMS

1. A control method for an item of equipment that is provided with particular functionality for using target data on a removable data carrier or in a received data file, the method involving enabling said particular functionality upon at least a first location condition being satisfied, this condition being tested for by:

(a) obtaining current-location data representing the current location of the equipment;

(b) comparing the current-location data with authorised-location data that is associated with the target data and represents a predetermined authorised location or locality for operation of said particular functionality of the equipment in relation to the associated target data; and

(c) generating a location-match signal upon the comparison step (b) indicating that the equipment is currently located in said authorised location or locality.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the authorized-location data is stored on said removable data carrier or in said received data file, the equipment reading said information carrier to obtain said authorized-location data.

3. A method according to claim 2, wherein steps (b) and (c) are carried out at the equipment.

4. A method according to claim 2, wherein the equipment has a communication sub-system enabling it to communicate with a remote service system via a communications infrastructure, steps (b) and (c) being carried out at the remote service system and this system, following the generation of a location-match signal in step (c), passing this signal or one produced after testing any further conditions set to be tested at the remote system, to the equipment via said communications infrastructure.

5. A method according to claim 4, wherein the current location data is obtained by the service system from a location discovery system separate from the equipment.

6. A method according to claim 4, wherein the communications infrastructure is a cellular radio infrastructure and the communication sub-system of the equipment is a cellular radio device, the infrastructure having a location discovery system for determining the location of the cellular radio device and thus of the equipment, and the remote service system obtaining said current-location data from the location discovery system either directly or via the equipment.

7. A method according to claim 1, wherein the equipment has a communication sub-system enabling it to communicate with a remote service system via a communications infrastructure, the remote service system storing authorised-location data against identity information, and the equipment reading said data carrier or file to derive identity information which it passes to the service system where it is used to access the corresponding authorized-location data for use in step (b).

8. A method according to claim 7, wherein the authorized location data is returned to the equipment and steps (b) and (c) are carried out at the equipment.

9. A method according to claim 7, wherein steps (b) and (c) are carried out at the service system and this system, following the generation of a location-match signal in step (c), passing this signal or one produced after testing any further conditions set to be tested at the service system, to the equipment via said communications infrastructure.

10. A method according to claim 9, wherein the current location data is obtained by the service system from a separate location discovery system separate from the equipment.

11. A method according to claim 9, wherein the communications infrastructure is a cellular radio infrastructure and the communication sub-system of the equipment is a cellular radio device, the infrastructure having a location discovery system for determining the location of the cellular radio device and thus of the equipment, and the remote service system obtaining said current-location data from the location discovery system either directly or via the equipment.

12. A method according to claim 1, wherein items of authorized-location data are stored in the equipment in association with identity data, the equipment reading said data carrier or file to derive identity information which it then correlates with said identity data to determine the authorized-location data item applicable to the data carrier or file, steps (b) and (c) then being carried out at the equipment using this item of authorized-location data.

13. A method according to claim 12, wherein said identity information identifies a classification of the target data.

14. A method according to claim 1, wherein the target data is encrypted and the enabling of said particular functionality involves providing a decryption key to the functionality to enable it to decrypt said target data.

15. Equipment including particular functionality for using target data provided on a removable data carrier or in a received data file, the equipment further including a control sub-system for enabling said particular functionality upon at least a first location condition being satisfied, the control sub-system comprising, for testing this condition,:

- a location discovery arrangement for obtaining current-location data representing the current location of the equipment;
- a read arrangement for reading from the removable data carrier or received data file authorized-location data representing a predetermined authorised location or locality for operation of said particular functionality of the equipment; and
- a comparison arrangement for comparing the current-location data with the authorized-location data whereby to generate a location-match signal upon this comparison indicating that the equipment is currently located in said authorised location or locality.

16. Equipment including particular functionality for using target data provided on a removable data carrier or in a received data file, the equipment further including a control sub-system for enabling said particular functionality upon at least a first location condition being satisfied, the control sub-system comprising, for testing this condition,:

- a location discovery arrangement for obtaining current-location data representing the current location of the equipment;
- a store for storing in association with identity data, authorized-location data representing a predetermined authorized location or locality for operation of said particular functionality of the equipment
- a read arrangement for reading from the removable data carrier or received data file identity information relating to the target data;
- a data retrieval arrangement for using the identity information to access the authorized-location data held in said store in respect of the identity data matching the identity information; and
- a comparison arrangement for comparing the current-location data with the accessed authorized-location data whereby to generate a location-match signal upon this comparison indicating that the equipment is currently located in said authorised location or locality.

17. A service system for determining when an item of equipment is located at a location where particular functionality of the equipment is authorised for use in accessing target data provided on a removable data carrier or in a received data file, the service system comprising:

- a communications sub-system for communicating with said equipment both to receive therefrom identity information concerning said target data, and to return to the equipment enablement signals for enabling said particular functionality for accessing the target data;
- a location discovery arrangement for obtaining current-location data representing the current location of the equipment;
- a store for storing in association with identity data, authorized-location data representing a predetermined authorized location or locality for operation of said particular functionality of the equipment;
- a data retrieval arrangement for using identity information received from the equipment via the communication sub-system to access the authorized-location data held in said store in respect of identity data matches the identity information; and

a comparison arrangement for comparing the current-location data with the accessed authorized-location data whereby to generate a location-match signal upon this comparison indicating that the equipment is currently located in said authorised location or locality.

18. A service system according to claim 16, wherein the system, following the generation of a location-match signal and successful testing for any further conditions set to be tested at the system, is operative to return to the equipment a decryption key for decrypting said target data.

19. A removable data carrier on which is registered target content data and authorised-location data, the latter representing a predetermined authorized location or locality where access to the target data is permitted.